

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1A

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425

DATE DISTR. 1 July 1949

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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Possibility of Martial Law Being Declared
in South Korea

PLACE 25X1C

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Unconfirmed reports have been consistently circulating in Seoul that a declaration of martial law or of a limited emergency is impending.
2. The Minister of National Defense and leaders of the army and navy are in favor of a declaration of martial law which would enable them to effect a complete purge of leftists and "middle-of-the-roads" who are advocating a coalition with the People's Republic in North Korea.
3. The Minister of Home Affairs and the National Police are opposed to martial law, because under martial law the police would lose their present power. The Minister of Home Affairs has agreed to martial law provided that the President will, by special executive order, give the police power equal to that of the army and navy.
4. President RHEE is considering whether to declare martial law, and if so, whether to give the police the power demanded by the Minister of Home Affairs.
5. The original date for the declaration of martial law was set to coincide with the departure of the last elements of the U.S. occupation forces, but was delayed because of the disagreement of the cabinet members. The present tentative date is on or about 2 July 1949.

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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By: 015

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